

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

The following is a detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the Application.

1-39. (Canceled).

40. (New) A method for describing user preferences, the method comprising:
defining a hierarchy of preference objects for describing user preferences related to multimedia content;

associating a first preference object in the hierarchy with a plurality of description elements describing multimedia content;

assigning a single preference value to the first preference object to characterize user preference for the combination of the plurality of description elements associated with the first preference object; and

generating a user profile that specifies the hierarchy of preference objects, the plurality of description elements associated with the first preference object in the hierarchy, and the single preference value characterizing user preference for the combination of the plurality of description elements associated with the first preference object in the hierarchy.

41. (New) The method of claim 40, further comprising:

associating a second preference object in the hierarchy with a first description element in the plurality of description elements associated with the first preference object.

42. (New) The method of claim 41, further comprising:

assigning a second preference value to the second preference object to characterize user preference for the first description element alone.

43. (New) The method of claim 40, wherein generating the user profile includes

designating the hierarchy of preference objects to be used in searching or filtering multimedia content.

44. (New) The method of claim 40, wherein associating the first preference object in the hierarchy with a plurality of description elements includes associating the first preference object with one or more description elements identifying a genre, a director or an actor of the multimedia content.

45. (New) The method of claim 40, wherein assigning a single preference value to the first preference object includes assigning the single preference value based on a user's access pattern to multimedia content.

46. (New) The method of claim 40, wherein assigning a single preference value to the first preference object includes assigning the single preference value based on user input.

47. (New) A software product, tangibly embodied in an information carrier, for describing user preferences, the software product comprising instructions to cause data processing apparatus to perform operations comprising:

defining a hierarchy of preference objects for describing user preferences related to multimedia content;

associating a first preference object in the hierarchy with a plurality of description elements describing multimedia content;

assigning a single preference value to the first preference object to characterize user preference for the combination of description elements associated with the first preference object; and

generating a user profile that specifies the hierarchy of preference objects, the

plurality of description elements associated with the first preference object in the hierarchy, and the single preference value characterizing user preference for the combination of the plurality of description elements associated with the first preference object in the hierarchy.

48. (New) The software product of claim 47, further comprising instructions to cause data processing apparatus to perform operations comprising:

associating a second preference object in the hierarchy with a first description element in the plurality of description elements associated with the first preference object.

49. (New) The software product of claim 48, further comprising instructions to cause data processing apparatus to perform operations comprising:

assigning a second preference value to the second preference object to characterize user preference for the first description element alone.

50. (New) The software product of claim 47, wherein generating the user profile includes designating the hierarchy of preference objects to be used in searching or filtering multimedia content.

51. (New) The software product of claim 47, wherein associating the first preference object in the hierarchy with a plurality of description elements includes associating the first preference object with one or more description elements identifying a genre, a director or an actor of the multimedia content.

52. (New) The software product of claim 47, wherein assigning a single preference value to the first preference object includes assigning the single preference value based on a user's access pattern to multimedia content.

53. (New) The software product of claim 47, wherein assigning a single preference value to the first preference object includes assigning the single preference value based on user input.